

**Claims**

1. A method of operating a UTRAN by time division duplexing, wherein uplink and downlink data are provided in time slots grouped into frames, the method comprising:

5 maintaining a no-transmit condition in at least one time slot in each frame, wherein remaining time slots in the frame preceding said at least one time slot comprising an uplink or a down link time slot, and succeeding time slots of said at least one time slot comprising the other of the uplink or down link time slot of the remaining time slots.

10 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one time slot is not the first or last time slot in a frame.

3. A Node B for a Universal Mobile Telephone System, the Node B arranged for time slots in data frames transmitted to user equipment and to instruct user equipment to receive and transmit data frames arranged as the  
15 Node B, wherein each frame is arranged so that at least one time slot is maintained in a no-transmit condition, remaining time slots in the frame preceding said at least one time slot comprise one of uplink or down link time slots and succeeding time slots of said at least one time slot comprising the other of the uplink and downlink time slot of the remaining time slots.

20 4. A radio network controller for a Universal Mobile Telephone System, the radio network controller arranged for time slots in data frames transmitted to user equipment and to instruct user equipment to receive and transmit data frames arranged as the radio network controller, wherein each frame is arranged so that at least one time slot is maintained in a no-transmit  
25 condition, remaining time slots in the frame preceding said at least one time slot comprise one of uplink or down link time slots and succeeding time slots of said at least one time slot comprising the other of the uplink and downlink time slot of the remaining time slots.

5. A mobile telecommunications network having a UTRAN comprising at

least one Radio Network Controller, the Radio Network Controller controlling at least one Node B, and user equipment communicating with a Node B, wherein uplink and downlink data are provided in time slots, the time slots being grouped into frames, and at least one time slot in each frame is maintained in a no-transmit condition, remaining time slots in the frame preceding said at least one time slot comprise uplink or down link time slots, succeeding time slots of said at least one time slot comprising the other of the uplink and downlink time slot of the remaining time slots.

6. A mobile telecommunications network according to Claim 5, wherein the network comprises a packet switched network.
7. A mobile telecommunications network according to Claim 5, wherein the network comprises a circuit switched network.

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